

FLD-666

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

25X1A

TOPIC

Military Information from Zerbst

EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

31 August to 8 September 1953

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

24 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Between 31 August and 8 September 1953, the Gneisenau Kaserne in Zerbst was occupied by a rear detail of 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia and, a few, black-bordered blue epaulets. The barracks rooms were being reconditioned. At 1 p.m. on 4 September, two groups of 54 and 56 soldiers left the installation for the bath. Source did not observe any training activity in the installation. At 4 pm. on 6 September, eight canvas-covered 85-mm AA guns were seen in the barracks yard. Motor vehicles were seen en route to the installation.

2. The Scharnhorst Kaserne was vacant during the period under review. No sentries were observed. The barracks rooms were being reconditioned. A glazier working there stated that reconditioning work was to be completed by late September, because the troops were scheduled to return by this time.

3. Between 8 p.m. and 3 : 30 p.m. on 31 August, about 10 T-34/85 tanks, including [redacted] were engaged in exercises in the woods between Juetrichau and Tornau. Some of the tanks mounted soldiers armed with submachine guns. Jeep [redacted] driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia; 8 trucks, [redacted] and 5 sidecar motorcycles were also seen.

[redacted] Comment. One of the three medium tank regiments of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the 237th Gds AAA Regt, which is vaguely confirmed until 6 September by the weapons observed, are carried in Zerbst. Movements observed in April indicated that the troops presumably are at Letzling Heath.